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REVIEWS

A NEW SERIES OF CLASSICS

To find in available form the selections which would meet the special needs of his classes has long been the despair of the teacher of literature. Though many publishers have been eager to share the business in this field, most of them have merely brought out new and uglier editions of the same titles. Disappointment oft repeated has led to skepticism concerning the promised differentness of new series of classics. Ignoring the pages of description in which the proprietors admit the merits of their new set of literary selections, the experienced teacher turns at once to the list of volumes. As one runs thus down the list¹ of Dutton's new "Kings' Treasuries," he finds many titles strange to American classrooms and several unknown to most teachers. Old favorites, from Andersen's *Fairy Tales* to *Sesame and Lilies* and a *Tale of Two Cities*, are included; but the less hackneyed *Tales from Tolstoy*, *Bee: Princess of the Dwarfs*, *The Wreck of the Golden Mary*, *Alpha of the Plough*, etc., afford an equally wide range in type and in maturity.

A few of the volumes require special comment. *A Shakespeare Progress* is a chronological arrangement of excerpts from the plays showing the development of Shakespeare's thinking, and even more clearly of his technique. *Lamb and Shakespeare* presents Lamb's narratives of several plays with the choicest scenes from the originals embedded in them. *Evergreen Stories* are Greek myths in versions little known to most teachers. The stories of Midas will charm high-school pupils long weary of rehashes of the Hawthorne version. In *The Adventures of Odysseus* the chief incidents in the life of that hero as told in the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* are presented almost in translation. This

¹ *The Kings' Treasuries: Sesame and Lilies, The Lore of the Wanderer, Richard II, Tales from Tolstoy, "Alpha of the Plough," Essay on Clive, Adventures of Odysseus, Wonder-Book (Hawthorne), Bee: Princess of the Dwarfs, Lamb and Shakespeare, Tales from Andersen, Child's Book of Saints, The Heroes (Kingsley), De Coverley Papers, Lay of the Last Minstrel, Tale of Two Cities, Chemical History of a Candle, Form—Room Plays—Junior Book, Shakespeare Progress, Paradise Lost, Black Beauty, Evergreen Stories, Stories from History (Henry III to Edward IV), Selections from Wordsworth, Under the Greenwood Tree, Wreck of the Golden Mary and other Stories, etc.* SIR A. T. QUILLER COUCH, General Editor. New York: E. P. Dutton and Company. \$0.70 each.

volume has very good illustrations, some from old Greek vases and some modern drawings based upon the best knowledge of Homeric customs. These will be appreciated by teachers who have sought for pictures which should help young people to image the dress and manners of ancient Greece. *Bee: Princess of the Dwarfs* is a modern fairy tale charmingly told by Anatole France, with unusual and effective suggestions for study at the back. *The Lore of the Wanderer* is an anthology of tramping and camping literature. The collection of Dickens' stories bearing the title of the first one, *The Wreck of the Golden Mary*, is intended as an introduction to Dickens, just as *Oliver Twist* has so commonly been used. The selections from *Unto This Last* (Ruskin) are intended to furnish an introduction (and a bias) for the study of economics. The essays in *Alpha of the Plough* are decidedly mature, introspective, war-time newspaper meditations. *Form-Room Plays* are dramatizations of familiar literature for the classroom, chiefly useful to show a teacher unaccustomed to this sort of work how acting versions may be made. *Modern Poetry* is a second-rate collection of a familiar kind.

Whether the general editor, Sir A. T. Quiller-Couch, has followed English tradition or has deliberately stepped out of the usual circle, many of the volumes will serve to freshen American classrooms. The range in maturity is already from the third or fourth grade to the third or fourth year of high school. The variety of subject-matter and of treatment is great, and is increasing rapidly as new numbers are added to the series. The books are attractively bound, somewhat like the same firm's *Everyman* series—not at all like dull schoolbooks. "King's Treasuries" constitute another step in the evolution of really modern school texts.

W. W. H.

A MODERN CLASSIC

The reaction from adult classics for study in English classes has so often resulted in the substitution, largely because they were available, of selections that were childish rather than of interest to children that teachers will generally welcome an edition for schools of Winston Churchill's *The Crisis*.¹ As all readers know, it is a stirring story, and although some historians have taken exception to detailed facts in it, they very generally

¹ *The Crisis*. By WINSTON CHURCHILL. Edited with notes by WALTER BARNES. New York: The Macmillan Co. (Pocket Classics.)